

Spring 2009

# The Classic, Spring 2009

Public Relations

*Northwestern College - Orange City*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://nwcommons.nwciowa.edu/classic2000>

---

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Classic at NWCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Classic, 2000-2009 by an authorized administrator of NWCommons. For more information, please contact [ggrond@nwciowa.edu](mailto:ggrond@nwciowa.edu).

*Northwestern College Magazine*

SPRING 2009

# *the* Classic



## Land of Opportunity

A nation of immigrants, the United States struggles to find solutions to its current immigration crisis

*Also*

Battle of the Mighty Floyd  
Housemom Memories  
Road Trip Tales



# 24

Road-tripping alumni and students reflect on miles traveled, sites seen and friendships that go the distance.





# Contents

## Classic People

### Editor

Duane Beeson  
712-707-7116  
beeson@nwciowa.edu

### Staff Writers

Carrie (Odell '01) Anderson  
Duane Beeson  
Anita Cirulis  
Tamara Fynaardt

### Designers

John Vander Stelt '83  
Ryan James  
Roy Trevino

### Web Designer

Dan Robinson '01

The *Classic* is published quarterly—in March, July, October and December—for alumni and friends of Northwestern College. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, the *Classic* was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni publication since 1930.

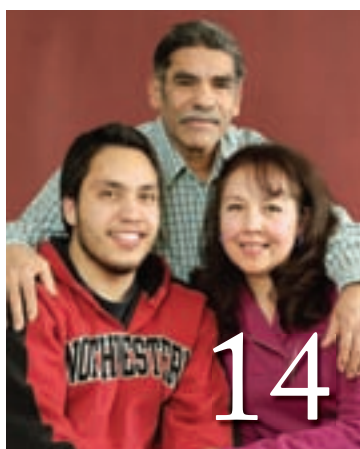
Send correspondence or address changes to the *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041-1996 or [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu).

Opinions expressed in the *Classic* do not necessarily reflect the official position of Northwestern College.

### On the cover:

Early immigrants to the United States wait in line at Ellis Island, where approximately 16 million people entered the country between 1882 and 1922.

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO



## 10 Splash

It's called the Battle of the Mighty Floyd, but the only mighty thing about it is the creativity of students as they make—and attempt to float—homemade boats.

## 14 Land of Opportunity

Since the turn of the 20th century, the United States has been known as a melting pot. Built on the work of people who came from other lands, our nation is now facing a heated immigration crisis, complete with talk of border fences, amnesty, deportation and poverty.

## On the Web

### Road Trips

Read more stories about the times students and alumni piled into a car and hit the highway for a great adventure.

### In Box

See more readers' responses to the winter *Classic*.

### Your Turn

Submit your own stories and photos of college road trips and the raft race. Also, you can comment on any article in this issue.

visit [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)

## Departments

2 Zwemer View

3 In Box

4 Around the Green

6 Of Course

9 Face Value

10 1,000 Words

12 Red Zone

13 Looking Back

26 Class Notes

32 Classic Thoughts

13





# Zwemer View

## Hope in Uncertain Times

**T**he question I have been asked most frequently in recent months is how our country's economic challenges are affecting Northwestern. As President Obama noted in his February speech to Congress, these are some of the most challenging economic times since the Great Depression.

My sense is every aspect of society is indeed being impacted. Higher education is no different. Most colleges have seen endowments drop by 25 to 30 percent or more, and no one is quite sure what the impact on enrollment might be.

Our primary goal has been keeping NWC affordable for students and families in these uncertain times. In light of that, we are actually reducing our tuition slightly for 2009–10 and increasing the amount of financial aid we are providing. Managing these two actions in this economic climate has been difficult.

We have also been tightening our belt to reduce expenses while seeking to maintain the high-quality academic, co-curricular, student life and spiritual formation programs for which we are known. In addition, we have worked diligently to maximize our revenues through increasing gift income and achieving the best possible enrollment and retention numbers for next fall and beyond.

So far, our gift income is ahead of last year's in spite of the economy. In particular, giving to the Northwestern Fund, which directly impacts student tuition, is up. This is a testament to the loyal support of our alumni, friends and churches. We were also blessed by a first-time donor whose \$250,000 challenge gift has already generated more than \$200,000 in new revenue from others who made a first-time or increased gift in support of the Northwestern Fund.

As for enrollment, we are cautiously optimistic. Our applications are well ahead of last year. We had more than 250 top students and their families on campus during January and February as part of an expanded scholarship competition, compared to 74 students last year. Early indications are that this year's four Scholarship Days greatly enhanced the likelihood these students will choose Northwestern.

Our challenging economic times remind me of our chapel program's theme this spring: "Ecclesiastes and Revelation—The Search for Meaning and the Revelation of Jesus." As a campus community, we are studying the ancient biblical wisdom through the lens of meaning revealed in Jesus Christ. Together we have been seeking and discovering the meaning of life, the hope for the future and a guide for the journey.

While the challenges we are experiencing cannot be ignored, we shouldn't obsess over them. Over the course of history, renewal—including spiritual renewal—has often followed times like these. At Northwestern, our distinctively Christian mission calls us to remind students that while these times may be uncertain, we serve a God who is unchanging, unshakable and worthy of trust.

Greg Christy  
*President*

## Your Comments

Did you know you can post comments about *Classic* articles on our website, [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)? We will publish selected posts in future issues of the magazine, such as this one from Ben Kester '09, in response to the Web exclusives on international students Leon Li and Davina and Dylan Ramasamy:

*Wow! Three amazing people, two amazing articles. Davina, Dylan and Leon, it has been quite a pleasure getting to know you. You are all so talented in such different ways, and so passionate and committed to your life and vocare.*



## Open Minded

Two things leapt out at me in the winter edition of the *Classic* (besides the great graphics!). First was the news about the new semester-long Oman program. Having spent a good deal of time helping “sell” the idea of Oman to the administration (not an easy task at a time of heightened concern about all things Middle Eastern) and being privileged to travel with Dr. Monsma on his first trip to Oman, I was thrilled to see this adopted as a regular part of the curriculum. This, to me, is what has always made NWC such a great place to study—the willingness to push the boundaries beyond where others might be willing to go.

And thus my disappointment at reading the letter from Wade Wubben accusing NWC of being too “liberal.” Northwestern is *open*, not liberal—open to allowing students to do what any good Christian liberal arts school should do, which is to expose them (through the filter of the Word) to the entire breadth of cultural, theological and political perspectives knowing they may not—and probably will not—all

end up in the same place.

I am deeply grateful to Northwestern for taking this approach, as it prepared me well for challenges I faced during my years as a cross-cultural missionary in highly pluralistic settings. Having also helped to recruit recent NWC grads for the RCA volunteer mission program in Bahrain, I can attest to the fact that Northwestern continues to serve its students well. I—and all who have worked with these fine young men and women—have nothing but praise for the way they have lived out their witness in challenging circumstances.

Keep up the good work, Northwestern!

**John Hubers '76**

*Ph.D. candidate in world Christianity and global missions  
Lutheran School of Theology  
Chicago*

## Driving Test

We want you to know how much we enjoyed answering the questions in “Are You Smarter Than a College Student?” They helped us pass the time driving from Minnesota to South Dakota. We had a great time doing it and learned so much. We have both been out of college or grad school for over 40 years, so we figured getting half of the answers correct wasn’t too bad.

Our daughter, Amy Bogott, graduated from Northwestern in 1999 with a social work major. She is now with Youth With A Mission serving in Brazil. We have been involved in mission work in Eastern Europe since 1996, so we also really enjoyed the write-ups about Northwestern’s international students.

**Bob and Donna Bogott**  
*Minneapolis*

## Groundbreaking Memories

The winter issue of the *Classic* informing us of possible plans to replace Heemstra Hall aroused some reflections for me. As the Northwestern Junior College Student Senate president, I was present at the groundbreaking for Heemstra Hall. I was asked to represent the student body with a short speech at the laying of the cornerstone, knowing it was a large step for Northwestern as this was the first brick dormitory. As a lad of 19, I would never have thought we would see such growth in 60 years and even need to replace this building.

I have recently read about Northwestern’s early struggles

in *From Strength to Strength*. It had a difficult youth and, looking back now, it seems I was there during its adolescence, which soon burst into adulthood when a few years later Northwestern became a four-year college. Such growth, even with a sister college so near growing at the same time, certainly shows God’s blessing on the convictions and desires of his church through its members here in the heartland of America. May God continue to bless NWC and other Christian educational institutions as they strive to prepare our youth for a “whole” life of service to him.

**Stan Sprik '50**  
*Worthington, Minn.*

## On the Web *exclusive*

Read more letters at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)

## WE LOVE GETTING MAIL

**Send letters to:** *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041; e-mail: [classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu); fax: 712-707-7370. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include an address and daytime phone number.



# *around the* Green

## Service Honor Roll

**T**he Corporation for National and Community Service has named Northwestern to the 2008 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Honored for the third consecutive year, NWC is among 635 colleges and universities recognized. Only 14 are from Iowa.

"This recognition is a testament to both the mission of Northwestern College and to the kind of compassionate students who call Northwestern home," says Marlon Haverdink, director of service learning. "We have a long tradition of service and community engagement, and it's an honor to see the students' commitment to help others recognized."

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors, including scope and innovativeness of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Last year, more than 725 Northwestern students were engaged in forms of community service, such as cleaning at The Bridge, a transitional housing facility; tutoring schoolchildren; working at area soup kitchens and homeless shelters; and assisting in cleanup and rebuilding for tornado victims in Parkersburg, Iowa, and hurricane victims in the Gulf Coast.

In addition, another 315 students were involved in academic service-learning, putting classroom knowledge into practice by helping area agencies and businesses. All told, Northwestern estimates its students engaged in more than 14,500 hours of service in 2007-08.

"It is humbling to think about the many hours our students devote to service and volunteerism. It speaks to their compassionate hearts and desire to put the needs of others before their own," says Haverdink. "Our students are motivated by their faith in Christ to reach out in love to their neighbors and communities. When they are presented with a need, they tend to rise to the occasion and use their creativity, passion and knowledge to address those needs."



Over 1,000 Northwestern students were involved in community service, such as tutoring area schoolchildren, or service-learning last year.

## Strategic Thinking

Northwestern has a new strategic plan. A steering committee developed a series of initiatives, entitled "Transforming Learning," which the Board of Trustees approved in fall 2007.

Now the task is to ensure the plan becomes reality. To accomplish that goal, a 12-member Strategic Planning Committee composed of faculty, administration, staff and student representatives has been meeting since December.

"One of our mandates was that we create an ongoing strategic planning process so it's not episodic but instead happens all the time," says Provost Jasper Lesage, who is chairing the committee.

Toward that end, the committee will update the plan, review progress on initiatives, monitor current trends, issue biannual reports, and make recommendations to the president.



Amanda Maloney was among the students who participated in a Northwestern summer study abroad program in India last year. Two trips are planned this summer to India and the Czech Republic.

## A Summer Abroad

India and the Czech Republic are the destinations for summer study abroad programs offered by Northwestern in 2009.

Dr. Joel Westerholm, English, and his wife, Kim, a registered nurse and co-director of Community Health Partners in Orange City, will co-lead the India trip. The course will explore Indian culture through literature and a nursing theory centered on a patient's experience with health care.

The Czech program will examine that nation's "physical culture"—a concept that encompasses fitness and sports but that also links physical vigor with nationalism. Dr. Paul Bartlett, kinesiology, and Vonda Post, business, will also lead students in comparing and contrasting the economics of sports in the U.S. and the Czech Republic.

## Stage Success

Northwestern theatre's production of *Terror Texts* received a standing ovation and six certificates of merit at the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, held at the University of Kansas in January.

Theatre professor Jeff Barker's original musical, scripted verbatim from several Old Testament passages, earned certificates of merit for the show's cast; directing by Barker; music composition by Joseph Barker; costume design by senior Brady Huffman, St. Joseph, Mo.; lighting design by senior Drew David Vander Werff, Orange City; and scenic design by Vaughn Donahue '08.

Seniors Huffman; Ben Bees, Yucca Valley, Calif.; and Tony Wilder, Westmont, Ill., were among the 64 actors who advanced to the semifinal round of the Irene Ryan acting competition out of 308 contestants.

Hannah Sauerwein, a senior from Jackson, Miss., also received a certificate of merit for her lighting design for *The Highest Calling?* produced at NWC last April. The play's cast received a certificate of merit for their acting as well.

## Bid Up

Around 500 friends of Northwestern made a bid for students at the 26th Gala Auction, hosted Feb. 7 by the National Alumni Association.

The auction raised \$33,000 to help fund \$1,000 Alumni Scholarships for 30 students next year. Auction proceeds also support the college's Teaching Excellence Award, a faculty workshop, and student life programs.

Among the 300 items that secured generous bids were guided deep-sea fishing, an island vacation, and a year of movies.

More than 600 bids were submitted online; a Wii, GPS system and iPod sparking heated bidding.

Alumni director Jenny Neuhauser praised the spirit of Northwestern's supporters. "The state of the U.S. economy didn't discourage anyone!" she said.

Mariah Hulstein bids at the 2009 Gala Auction as her mom, Fonda, and friend Vonda Post '88 look on. The auction supports scholarships for students like Mariah's sisters, Randa '10 and Rylee '12.



ANITA CIRIUS



# Of Course



## Work Force

### Class

Labor Economics

### Instructor

Dr. Eric Elder

*Professor of Business and Economics*

As the nation's economy sunk deeper into a recession and unemployment rates rose this semester, students found Dr. Eric Elder's Labor Economics course to be especially relevant.

"The course has provided me with a lot of insight into how the labor market works—how it affects the economy and how it's affected by the economy," says Danielle Veurink. "We have looked at both employers' and employees' perspectives."

Elder likes teaching the course because of its abundant practical applications. "Students learn a set of skills that can be used to apply critical thinking to various topics," he says.

So when the sorry state of the U.S. automobile industry was in the news, his class talked about how much per car GM spent on employee benefits. As the federal government entertained bailout pleas, the class examined economic theories that would determine if high CEO salaries and their use of private jets were justified.

The class looked at a series of parameters that influence the immigration rate and talked about what would happen to the labor market if immigrants left. Students also studied the various kinds of discrimination that can occur in the workplace.

"Discrimination isn't just getting shut out of a job," says Elder. "There's worker-to-worker discrimination and customer-to-employee discrimination. You have a choice over who you hire, but not over who's willing to buy from you."

### Text and Assignments

*Contemporary Labor Economics, 8th Edition*, edited by Campbell McConnell, Stanley Brue and David Macpherson

The course includes a variety of case studies, discussions of relevant current topics, presentations, homework assignments and tests. Students write an 8- to 10-page paper in which they explore a question such as: What is the net effect of the minimum wage? Are professional athletes overpaid? or What effect does welfare have on labor supply?

### Case Study: Discrimination

A bank branch hires an African-American with an M.B.A. from a local university as an investment counselor. After three months of posting average sales, stories surface of customers whispering to each other that they do not trust him with their investments because of his ethnic background. The branch manager wants him replaced by someone who "appears" more trustworthy to customers. How would you handle the situation?

### On the Web *exclusive*

Share your response to the case study through the comments section at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)



DOUG BURG

John Greller will retire this summer after 17 years at the helm of Northwestern's advancement team.

## Bye, Bear

John "Bear" Greller, vice president for advancement, has announced his retirement, effective this summer. Greller made the decision after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

"John has led our advancement team in raising millions of dollars for facilities, scholarships and programs—all while focusing on the end result of equipping students to make a difference for Christ in the world," says President Greg Christy. "Donors have invested in Northwestern's mission in part because of John's authentic Christian faith, genuine interest in them, and articulation of the college's purpose. He will be greatly missed."

A feature on Greller will be included in the summer *Classic*.

# Research Awards

Research by two Northwestern professors will receive added support this year through the college's Endowed Research Fellowships. Dr. Dave Arnett and Dr. James Mead were each awarded \$10,000 research grants for 2009 by the Faculty Development Committee following an external review process.

Arnett's research in the field of biophysical chemistry involves structural and spectroscopic studies of biological molecules. His goal is to refine experimental techniques for measuring distances within single protein molecules.

A member of Northwestern's faculty since 1999, Arnett holds a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania.

Mead will explore the relationships between Jewish and Christian biblical theology. He will conduct a portion of his research at his alma mater, Princeton Theological Seminary, where he earned a doctorate in biblical studies.

The author of *Biblical Theology: Issues,*

*Methods and Themes*, Mead intends to eventually write another book based on this new area of study and to develop a new course in Jewish biblical theology. An ordained Presbyterian minister for 24 years, he joined Northwestern's faculty in 2000.

The Endowed Research Fellowships are intended to fund substantive research that contributes meaningfully to the faculty member's discipline. The awards are provided through the generosity of an anonymous donor and may be used for stipend, travel, equipment, books, supplies and student assistants.



Dr. James Mead, religion, (left) and Dr. Dave Arnett, chemistry, were awarded \$10,000 Endowed Research Fellowships for sabbatical study.

## Rockin' Summer

Christian musicians Jeremy Camp and Hawk Nelson will headline the fifth annual RiseFest at Northwestern's soccer complex on June 20. Sponsored by Rise Ministries and NWC, the family festival will also feature several other bands, pro skateboarder Tim Byrne and children's ministry activities.

Tickets will be \$15 if purchased in advance, with children 10 and under admitted free. Tickets at the door will be \$20. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.riseministries.com](http://www.riseministries.com).

Jeremy Camp will perform at RiseFest 2009 on Northwestern's campus.







## Red Raider Golf Classic

**Friday, June 5  
Landsmeer Golf Club  
Orange City**

All friends of Northwestern athletics are invited to participate in this four-person scramble, hosted by the Red Raider Club. Golfers can designate the proceeds from their entry fee to the sport of their choice. The event includes a noon lunch, 1p.m. best-ball shotgun start, numerous contests and prizes, and 5:30 dinner.

For more information, contact  
Coach Kyle Achterhoff  
712-707-7282  
achterhk@nwciova.edu

## And the Winner is ...

Northwestern's 125th anniversary is over, but we're still celebrating. The college's efforts to commemorate the anniversary last year were recognized in January with a bronze award in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District Six awards competition.

The Northwestern entry was joined in the institutional relations project category by winners from Colorado State University, gold, and the University of Kansas, silver.

Northwestern's efforts to celebrate its anniversary centered around Homecoming in October, the inaugural Day of Learning in Community in April, and a community/college party in July. In addition, commemoration of the anniversary was incorporated into other previously existing events and publications as much as possible.

An 11-member committee from a cross-section of the college's constituencies planned the celebration. Goals included increasing awareness of Northwestern's founding date and history, building pride in NWC among its alumni and friends, and giving them an opportunity to reconnect with the college and with each other.

A judge described Northwestern's efforts as "an effective, yearlong celebration tied to the community, college, students and staff."



A theatrical sketch telling the story of Northwestern through the eyes of students from five decades spanning 125 years was one of the college's efforts to celebrate its anniversary in 2007-08. Northwestern's anniversary commemoration was recently recognized with a bronze award in a district competition.



JIM HEENSTRA '72

## A-List

What are the best academic programs on campus? College admissions adviser Frederick Rugg asks that question of students at 1,100 high-quality colleges. He uses their answers, as well as feedback from school counselors, college personnel and parents, to compile his annual *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*, a national guidebook that recommends college departments to prospective students.

His 2009 edition highlights 17 NWC academic programs, two more than last year. Business and social work have joined the list, along with actuarial science, athletic training, biology, chemistry, ecological science, education, English, history, music, philosophy, physics, psychology, religion, Spanish and theatre.

**Chemistry is among 17 Northwestern programs recommended in a national guidebook.**

# Face Value

## Tour de Force

One hundred and forty Northwestern actors, vocalists and instrumentalists boarded buses in March to take their shows on the road. The Symphonic Band and Drama Ministries Ensemble (DME) both performed in churches and schools across southern California during spring break March 7–17.

The Symphonic Band toured a concert that featured *Gloriosa*, a 20-minute historical reflection on persecuted Christians by a Japanese composer.

*Samson*, the DME's new touring drama, is the latest in their series of ancient plays of Israel, scripted verbatim from the Old Testament.

The A cappella Choir performed in South Dakota communities March 26–29. Nine of the choir's vocalists are from the Mount Rushmore State.

## Reel Gold

Northwestern's new admissions DVD came out on top in the *Admissions Marketing Report's* national competition.

*Real. Northwestern.* won a gold award in the video viewbook category for colleges with fewer than 2,000 students.

*Admissions Marketing Report* is a monthly magazine covering the marketing strategies of colleges, universities and schools.

*Real. Northwestern.* was produced by Passenger Productions, founded by Joe Hubers '03. View it on YouTube or Northwestern's website: [www.nwciowa.edu/realnorthwestern](http://www.nwciowa.edu/realnorthwestern).

This marks the third year in a row for Northwestern's marketing efforts to be honored by the magazine.

## Tim Huffman

Mathematical mind

### What do you appreciate about working at NWC?

The congeniality among faculty and with students. As a community, we work reasonably well together. And we have a very pleasant math department.

### How would you describe Northwestern students?

For the most part, they are solid and well-prepared. The best thing about Northwestern students is they'll do what you ask them to do. And the worst thing is they'll do what you ask them to do. They want to please you so much, they tend to not go outside the box.

### What do you "do" in the big sense of the word?

I'm about making sure we offer an exceptional experience.

### What one thing would you change about Northwestern?

Northwestern is better than it gives itself credit for. We hit ourselves over the head more than we should.

### What are your dreams?

Professionally, I'd like to build the premiere actuarial program in the nation among Christian colleges and have it be recognized among the top 20 outright. My other dream is to take an around-the-world cruise. I think the first dream is more likely.

### Describe yourself in three words.

Determined, direct and motivated.

### What are you an expert at?

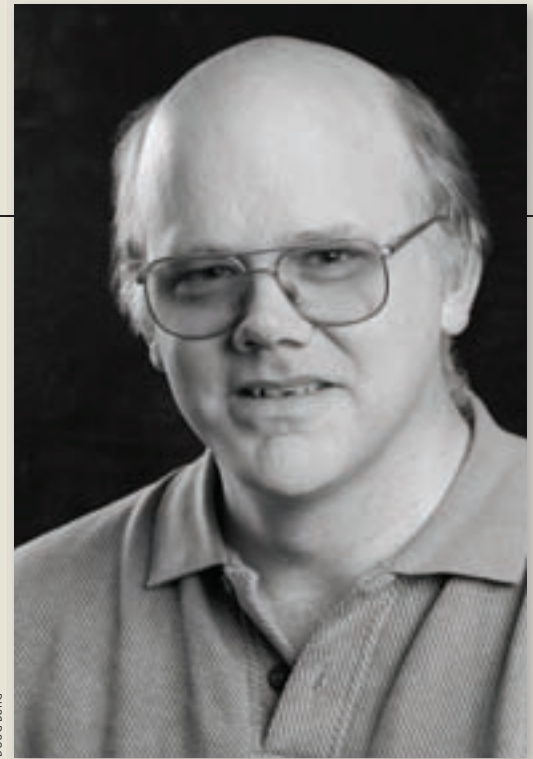
Statistics and predictive modeling.

### What do you wish you were an expert at?

Piano. I'm good at vocal music, but I don't have the dexterity for the keyboard.

### What have you learned about God from mathematics?

In mathematics you marvel at some of the intricacies of nature. A lot of it points back to



DOUG BURR

A Northwestern faculty member since 1994, Dr. Tim Huffman serves as mathematics department chair and directs the actuarial science major. He already has passed five of the seven actuarial exams and works as a predictive modeler for Great West Casualty in Sioux City.

the providence of God. It's pretty hard to say everything happened by accident if you look at the complexity of things. The ability to think linearly is itself a gift from God. There's a beauty in mathematics. You realize after a while that math is an art form, not just a science.

### Who is your favorite person?

Abraham Lincoln. You can't read his writings without being amazed by his communication skills and ability to put things in perspective.

### What do you value?

A challenge—figuring out something, like a puzzle, that others haven't figured out yet. That's what actuarial is all about.

### What are your hobbies?

Music, theatre and spending time with our two daughters. I sing in the Sioux County Oratorio. I acted in a Northwestern theatre production last spring. I also volunteer with the local fire department.





# Splash



**Wooden pallets atop inner tubes. Garbage bags stuffed with Styrofoam peanuts. Hundreds of milk jugs lashed together. Every April, student crews test the float factor of their homemade crafts during the Battle of the Mighty Floyd. The annual raft race—a tradition since the late 1960s—takes place on the Floyd River east of Orange City. Seaworthy? Not really. See-worthy? It usually draws a crowd. Whatever floats your boat, right?**

*Photos by Doug Burg and Tom Becker*





**On the Web** *exclusive*

Submit your raft race photos and memories at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)





Katie Nieuwsma goes up for the rebound. She was among four freshmen who got significant playing time for the Raiders.

# Red Zone

## **Women's Basketball Final Four**

Northwestern advanced to the Final Four of the NAIA Div. II national tournament, finishing at 26-9 after a loss to Morningside. The Raiders placed second in the Great Plains Athletic Conference with a 15-3 mark and were runners-up in the league tournament. Randa Hulstein and Becca Hurley earned first team all-conference honors. Hulstein was named the national player of the week on Feb. 10 after averaging 20 points and 14 rebounds in two games.

## **Men's Basketball GPAC Player of Year**

Kale Wiertzema was named the GPAC's player of the year after leading the conference in scoring with 19.3 points per game. Northwestern placed fourth in the league with an 11-7 record and finished 16-13 overall.

## **Wrestling Good Sports**

Northwestern won the Champion of Character Team Award at the national meet and placed 20th overall. Seven Raiders competed at nationals, including Tom Eaton, who was named an All-American after placing fourth at 174 pounds, and Nic Leither, whose eighth-place finish at 197 earned him honorable mention. Eaton, Leither and Levi Price (149) were GPAC champions. The Raiders finished third in the league.

## **Indoor Track All-American**

Charity Miles earned All-American honors for the second

consecutive year by placing fourth in the 5K at the indoor national meet. Emily De Weerd also competed at nationals in the 60-meter hurdles. At the GPAC meet, the Raider women placed eighth and the men finished ninth. Angela Wiersema set a new school record in the triple jump with a leap of 10.87 meters.

## **Red Raider Club Alumni Honored**

Northwestern's Red Raider Club added four alumni to the Athletic Hall of Fame. All-Americans Riley Kleinhesselink '00 (football), Matt Ortman '00 (baseball), Kevin Vander Linden '98 (football and wrestling) and Brandon Woudstra '03 (basketball) were inducted in February.

Ortman, head baseball coach at Blue Valley High School of Stilwell, Kan., and Earl Woudstra '78, Northwestern's women's basketball coach, received coach of the year honors. Chris Yaw '92 (basketball) received the Barnabas Award.

## **Football New Head Coach**

Kyle Achterhoff '90 is the Raiders' new head football coach, replacing Orv Otten '79. An assistant since 1998, Achterhoff was defensive coordinator for three years and coordinated the offense for the last eight. Just the third head coach since 1967, he was chosen from a pool of approximately 100 applicants from across the country.

For more on Raider sports, visit [www.nwcraiders.com](http://www.nwcraiders.com)



# Don't Tell My Ma

by Tamara Fynaardt

Wearing jeans and flip flops, a latte in one hand and Blackberry in the other, Northwestern's 20-something resident directors are barely distinguishable from the students they're responsible for. Forty years ago, though, grandmas had their jobs.

During the 1960s and '70s, Northwestern dorm life was supervised by widowed women who'd raised families and then postponed quiet retirements to spend a year or sometimes more serving as housemothers in Colenbrander, Fern Smith, Heemstra and Hospers halls. Saints in sensible shoes.

Cornie Wassink '73 was one of Eulalia Reed's Colenbrander Hall charges. He explains that although dorms had no open hours during those years, male students still had to watch for Ma Reed making rounds. "A few tried to shock her," he remembers.

Wassink says he could tell plenty of stories about Ma Reed and the pranks Coly residents pulled right under her nose. But he'd rather share the shenanigans

of football teammates who lived in Heemstra under the seemingly oblivious eye of Edith Kraai '27.

Wassink claims Heemstra friends were once discovered by Ma Kraai imbibing a contraband beverage in the hall basement. According to Wassink's story, the guys convinced Ma the barrel-like container was, in fact, a bomb. Just a little one—not very dangerous, says Wassink, chuckling. "They told her, 'We'll take care of it. We'll get rid of it for you,' and she believed them."

Wayne Van Heuvelen '74 lived in Heemstra Hall and remembers Ma Kraai as "wonderful," with a "ready smile and kind word for all." But, he adds, "she went to bed early and was a deep sleeper."

Van Heuvelen wasn't involved in the "bomb scare" but admits Ma Kraai's early bedtime might have been handy *if* he and Heemstra pals had ever wanted to misbehave.

Like what? Van Heuvelen muses about statutes of limitations before describing what he claims is a hypothetical: If some athletes had wanted to stash the

**Eulalia Reed, left, and Edith Kraai were responsible for managing the mischief in Colenbrander and Heemstra halls while serving as housemothers in the 1970s.**

chapel chairs in Heemstra's unused fallout shelter, they could easily have hauled them across campus, through the dorm, down the stairs and noisily stacked them in a heap—all while Ma Kraai was asleep.

Hypothetically.

Former biology professor Virg Muilenburg '62 was director of Northwestern's student center in the basement of Hospers Hall in the early 1970s. He says, "It's true

students sometimes thought the 'Mas' were naïve." But Muilenburg doubts that was the case. He suspects the seasoned women knew more than students realized but—at least in the case of Colenbrander and Heemstra halls—let boys be boys.

"They probably thought, 'As long as I don't see blood or smell smoke, I'm not going to investigate.'"





# Land of Opportunity

BY ANITA CIRULIS

**In recent years, an influx of illegal immigrants, along with changes in immigration laws and policies, has created a national quagmire. As the debate about solutions becomes increasingly politicized, employers, communities—and families—are finding themselves caught in the middle.**





When Darin Dykstra advertised for workers for his northwest Iowa dairy, 200 people applied. All but six were Hispanic.

Immigrants waiting to enter the United States in 1924 fill the registry room at Ellis Island in New York Harbor.

Dawn is just a hint on the horizon when Darin Dykstra backs his Chevrolet Silverado out of the garage of his rural home in Plymouth County, Iowa. He drives across the road to the bunkers providing feed for the 3,000 Holsteins his dairy operation milks three times a day.

A quick glance inside each bunker tells him how much feed is left over. Inspection done, he heads to his office, where a computerized system allows him to make adjustments to the amount delivered to each bin.

As he works, Aaron Garrido, the head of Dykstra's maintenance crew, enters the room to discuss the day's assignments. Garrido has been employed by the dairy since its start in 2003 and is one of 28 Hispanics working for Dykstra. He is also part of a new wave of immigrants to northwest Iowa that's indicative of a nationwide trend: In 1980, approximately 6 percent of the U.S. population was Hispanic; in 2006, that figure had grown to almost 15 percent.

The great majority of immigrants to the United States are "authorized migrants." In 2004, the Migration Policy

Institute estimated 71 percent of the nation's 35.7 million foreign-born population were naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, or temporary legal residents.

While no one knows for certain how many undocumented immigrants are in the U.S., most experts agree the number is close to 12 million. Contrary to the stereotype, not all of them arrived by slipping across the border. Two out of five entered with permission but failed to leave when their visas expired.



## A Matter of Survival

People on both sides of the immigration debate agree immigrants come to the United States for jobs.

“For too long, Washington has ignored border control and enforcing Americans laws,” says U.S. Rep. Steve King of Iowa. “This has created job magnets that have drawn millions of illegal immigrants to America.”

Rick Clark, who teaches Spanish at Northwestern, remembers meeting an indigenous man during a church mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico, in 2004. Striking up a conversation, Clark asked what the man did and discovered he used to raise corn but hadn’t for the past two years—since trucks loaded with corn started arriving from Iowa.

“Now when I take my corn to the place that makes tortillas,” the man said, “they pay me less than what it cost to raise it, so I’ve lost all my income.”

Clark says the man’s predicament was a direct result of the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA went into effect in 1994 and is also responsible for causing Americans to lose jobs that are shipped south of the border where labor is cheaper.

“I never felt like my farmer friends here in Iowa were doing anything wrong,” Clark says. “You just feel badly for those who are negatively impacted by a global economy. This man’s story put a face on the issue and increased my understanding of why they are so desperate to come to the United States.”

Before going to Chiapas, Clark was told he wouldn’t meet any male between the ages of 15 and 50 who didn’t want to leave. In Chiapas, they could make just \$1 a day; at the border, \$10 a day; and in the U.S., \$10 an hour.

Diane Vander Broek ’73 is employed by Community Health Partners in Orange City. A former missionary to Honduras, she speaks Spanish and works with Latino mothers and children.

“Nobody is crazy about leaving their own country and dropping into a land where they don’t speak the language or know the culture,” she says. “I know from experience it’s lonely and agonizing and scary. People come because they’re looking for a way to survive and feed their families.”

Early immigrants worked in coal mines, constructed railroads and operated factories. Today many find employment at dairies and meat processing plants.



## Filling Jobs

Just as immigrants need jobs, so America has needed and used immigrant labor. Early immigrants worked in coal mines, constructed railroads and operated factories. Today in northwest Iowa, they find employment at dairies and meat processing plants.

When Dykstra first advertised he was hiring, 200 people applied for seven positions. The jobs were unskilled labor; the pay started at \$10 an hour; all but six of the applicants were Hispanic. The dairyman struggles to understand why.

"I don't know if the pay's not good enough for this kind of work, or if it's too hard or too smelly or too dirty," he says. In fact, Dykstra leads dairy farmers in northwest Iowa by providing his employees with health insurance, paid vacation and overtime pay for working on holidays—but the job still involves working with 1,500-pound animals and manure.

Piet Koene, who teaches Spanish at Northwestern, believes wages are the answer. "Very few people are interested, long term, in earning \$10 an hour," he says. "You can't raise a family on that."

According to the Pew Research Center, 7 million undocumented immigrants are working in the U.S., while the U.S. Department of Labor reports more than 68 million citizens weren't in the labor force in 2006. "There are more than enough Americans to replace the labor currently done by illegal aliens," King maintains.

There may be, but at what price? Like King, Mick Snieder '06, an Orange City councilman, believes if jobs weren't filled by people who are here illegally, they could be filled by citizens looking for work. "If an employer can't get enough applicants," he says, "that tells me they're probably not paying enough or providing the right benefits or there's something unattractive about that job."

Dykstra points out, however, that the rollercoaster nature of agriculture makes raising wages a risk. Paying his employees an extra \$5 an hour could mean an additional \$250,000 per year for labor. "That could be your profit or loss in a year."

Any such increases would ultimately be passed on to consumers. "There's the whole spiraling economic effect," Koene says. "Milk and eggs are relatively cheap because of low income levels on farms. Unless people really want to pay more for basic items, wages have to stay low. And the only people interested in filling those jobs are the recently arrived immigrants."



DAN ROSS

*In response to the growing Hispanic population around Orange City, Northwestern started Enlaces en Cristo (Bound Together in Christ), a ministry that provides students outreach opportunities, such as playing soccer with local Hispanic children.*

## Déjà Vu

This is not the first time waves of immigrants have stepped foot on America's shores. The United States is a nation of immigrants.

"The overwhelming reason most immigrants come is for better economic opportunities," says Dr. Mike Yoder, professor of sociology at Northwestern. "Most of our European ancestors were peasants. Owning land was a dream they knew they could never achieve in Europe."

Until approximately 1880, the first wave of immigrants came from Northern and Western Europe at a time when America had an open immigration policy. Passports weren't required until 1918, so the term "illegal immigrant" had no meaning.

From 1880 to World War II, a second wave of immigrants arrived from Southern and Eastern Europe—Italians, Poles and Russians. They were accused, Yoder says, "of taking jobs away from good, hard-working Americans and undermining the foundations of American society."



Despite that, of the 16 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island from 1882 to 1922, 98 percent were admitted to the United States—most within eight hours.

Yoder attributes the hostility shown toward new immigrants to something sociologists call ethnocentrism. “I view it as part of our sinful human condition,” he says. “Simply put, we find it easiest to like people like ourselves.”

The experience has been no different for those in this latest wave of immigrants dating back to the 1980s and consisting primarily of Hispanics and Asians. As *Washington Post* journalist Michael Powell wrote: Each generation of immigrants tends to look down on those who follow.

## Changing Climate

Immigration laws are designed to keep people out, and perhaps for good reason. “America has always been seen as a land of opportunity, and that’s why there are far more immigrants who want to come here than many people say we can afford to let in,” says Yoder.

But often those laws are influenced by prejudice. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1875 limited Chinese immigrants, allowing them in only as temporary, seasonal laborers. From 1925 to 1965 there were quotas giving preference to people from Northern and Western Europe.

Economic and political factors also come into play. Waves of immigration slow to a trickle during times of depression or war. As unemployment rises, immigration restrictions tighten.

Such is the case during the current recession. “Part of our economic recovery,” King says, “needs to be putting Americans back to work rather than complacently watching them be supplanted by illegal aliens.” Dwayne Alons ’68, a Hull farmer who serves in the Iowa legislature, agrees with King and is particularly concerned about the use of taxpayer dollars.

“I think we have to guard against just blindly handing out benefits to illegals,” he says. “It encourages them to come into the state and will never end the problem.”

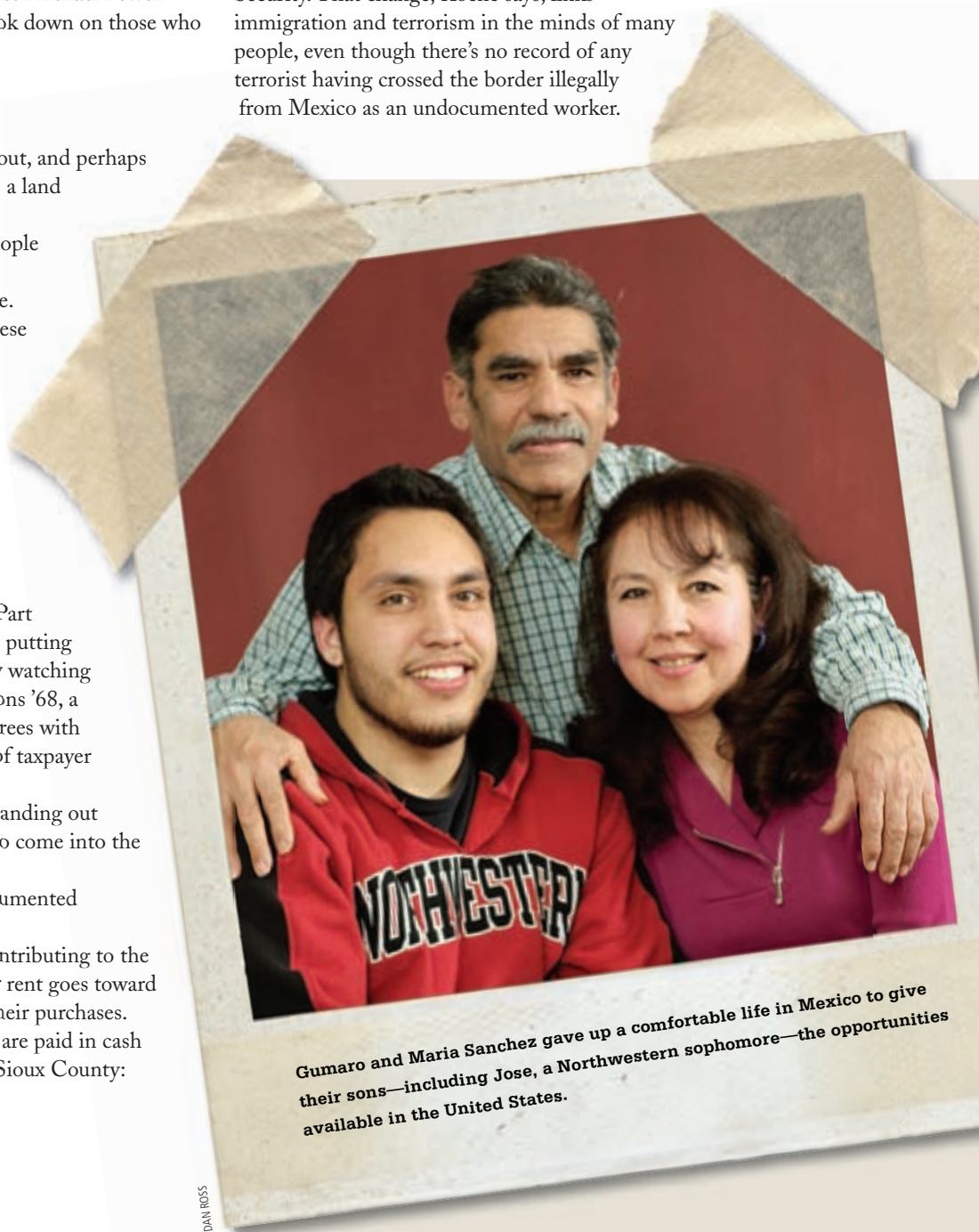
Koene disagrees, arguing the perception undocumented immigrants don’t pay taxes is unfounded.

“You can’t live and work in the U.S. without contributing to the system,” he says. A portion of what people pay for rent goes toward property taxes, and everyone pays sales taxes for their purchases. While there are parts of the country where wages are paid in cash under the table, Koene says that’s not the case in Sioux County:

Employment is documented with regular paychecks out of which taxes for Social Security and Medicare are taken.

“Part of the Social Security surplus that currently exists is traceable to the contributions of undocumented workers who have no hope of drawing Social Security in the future,” Koene says.

Just as the economy has changed the climate for undocumented workers, so too has 9/11 and the war on terror. What used to be the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Services) is now ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and part of the Department of Homeland Security. That change, Koene says, links immigration and terrorism in the minds of many people, even though there’s no record of any terrorist having crossed the border illegally from Mexico as an undocumented worker.



Gumaro and Maria Sanchez gave up a comfortable life in Mexico to give their sons—including Jose, a Northwestern sophomore—the opportunities available in the United States.

DAN ROSS

"A country does need to protect its borders," Koene acknowledges. "But protecting against incoming terrorists is different than protecting against undocumented workers."

## Divided Families

Opponents of illegal immigration decry the disregard for the law shown by those who enter the United States without permission. "The most basic reason I think it's a problem is because it's breaking the law," Snieder says. "Regardless of whether it's a law we support, it's important to have respect for the rule of the law."

Entering the United States without permission from the federal government is a misdemeanor for the first offense, punishable by six months in jail. But whether due to economics or national security, other

immigration laws and their enforcement have changed—and those changes are having a huge impact on families.

As late as April 2001, undocumented immigrants could pay a \$1,000 fine and proceed with their residency application without leaving the U.S. Now they must leave and apply for a visa from outside the United States, and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 bars anyone who has been unlawfully present in the U.S. for more than 180 days from returning for three years. If they've been in the U.S. for more than a year, they are barred for 10 years.

According to the Pew Hispanic Center, in March 2005 an estimated 60 percent of illegal immigrants had been here more than five years, and 34 percent, more than 10 years. Many have children who have no memory of any home other than the United States—or who were born

## Sacrificing for the American Dream

She holds three jobs as a cook. He works in the production line of a meat processing plant. In Mexico she was an architect and he, a construction foreman.

Maria and Gumaro Sanchez of Orange City gave up a comfortable life and everything familiar to move to the United States for one reason: to give their four boys the opportunities available in America.

"We decide for them," Maria says simply.

Now their oldest, Jose, is a sophomore at Northwestern, and Ed, a senior at MOC/Floyd Valley High School, is considering NWC as he decides where to attend college next fall.

"My grandpa on my dad's side was a farmer," Jose says. "My dad didn't even graduate from third grade elementary because where he was born, it's just very difficult. Education wasn't very available, so he started working construction at a very young age."

Maria, meanwhile, graduated from college, where she studied architecture despite her parents' protests that it was a man's profession. She met Gumaro when her firm employed his company to build a mall in Puerto Vallarta.

In 1986, Gumaro's brother, a U.S. citizen, applied for a visa for Gumaro's family. After waiting 15 years, they were finally notified of the date on which they were to appear before U.S. immigration officials in Ciudad Juárez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas.

Weighing whether to stay or leave, Maria and Gumaro were encouraged to choose the United States by the principal of the private

school where the Sanchez boys were learning English. "She supported the decision to come," Maria says of the Mexican woman who grew up in the States but returned to her home country to establish the school.

A two-year construction job with his brother led Gumaro and his family to California when they first arrived in the U.S. in 2001. Two years later the Sanchezes moved to Orange City at the urging of a friend of Maria's who had immigrated to northwest Iowa.

Maria, whose maiden name is Perry and whose ancestors came to Mexico from England, is now a U.S. citizen. Her citizenship automatically made her children under 18 citizens as well. Gumaro and Jose are permanent legal residents.

The couple continues to make sacrifices for their children. Jose, a religion major, became interested in the mission field after participating in a Spring Service Project at Northwestern last year. When he felt called to serve with a ministry in Alaska last summer, Maria took an extra part-time job to replace the money for college he would have earned through a typical summer job.

When asked what their hopes and dreams are for their sons, Maria answers, "The first dream is they are good citizens—and very, very great spirit ...."

At a loss for how to express herself in English, she turns to Jose. "Lo que ellos quieren," she says.

"Whatever our hearts desire," he translates.





Julie Mitchell became interested in helping immigrants while studying abroad as a Northwestern student. She now works for the Central American Resource Center in Los Angeles.

ADAM KAZMIERSKI

in America and are U.S. citizens. An Urban Institute Report estimates nearly one in 10 U.S. households have at least one non-citizen parent and at least one child who is a citizen.

Those are the people most affected when the federal government, in 2007, began to focus on detaining and removing undocumented immigrants incarcerated in local jails. In one year, the percentage of Hispanics in the Sioux County jail detained by immigration authorities jumped from 8 to 36 percent, and in 2008 it reached 61 percent.

"I remember almost to the day when law enforcement decided to apply their right not to just fine people without driver's licenses, but to jail them," Vander Broek says, "because once those same people started going to jail, they were asked, 'Where are you from?' That pulled in Immigration, and then the deportations started."

Vander Broek recalls making a home visit when authorities came and arrested both parents as undocumented immigrants. "The policemen were kind, but then they were gone—leaving a 1-year-old and a 9-year-old behind."

## Who's Who?

Another law that has changed in the past 10 years deals with identity theft. Formerly a misdemeanor, the crime is now a felony in Iowa.

Sioux County Attorney Coleman McAllister prosecutes cases of identity theft and has seen them more than quadruple in five years. "The people I meet who are common victims of identity theft are usually poor Hispanic-Americans whose identities have been stolen," he says. "They're targeted because they have a Hispanic surname."

The thefts often come to light when the victim's credit is ruined or the government—because someone using the stolen Social Security number is impersonating the victim and drawing wages—cuts off a disability check or withholds a tax refund.

"It harms people's credit and their ability to live," McAllister says. "It's a mess."

Dykstra is expected to hire only people with the legal right to work in the U.S., but the ready availability of fake IDs makes that difficult.

"I've looked at my Social Security card and my kids' Social Security cards that were issued 30 years later, and they look totally different," he says. "How is anyone supposed to know what a valid Social Security card looks like?"

According to Koene, less than \$100 will purchase a real-looking Social Security card and some type of state ID. "The technology has outpaced our ability to train employers to monitor it," McAllister admits.

## ¿Hablas español?

**Dutch was still used in worship services in Orange City as late as 1952. It took Dutch immigrants three generations to make the shift from 100 percent Dutch to 100 percent English.**

Occasionally Dykstra will get a letter from the Social Security Administration telling him an employee's name and Social Security number don't match. Wanting to avoid hiring an undocumented worker in the first place, Dykstra found himself in a catch-22 when he tried to go directly to the Social Security Administration to check the status of an applicant's number. Unless that person worked for him, he was told,

*(continued on page 22)*

## Road to Understanding

Survey by social work students reveals local attitudes, knowledge about immigration

Emotions ran high when 100 people packed a February meeting of the Sioux County Board of Supervisors last year.

"It was tense," local reporter Doug Calsbeek '79 remembers. "The chairman did his best to get people to lighten up. There were also a couple of Homeland Security people there, keeping an eye on the crowd."

According to spokesman Kurt Wierda, a Sioux County dairy farmer, he and others had come to express concern that their immigrant employees, friends and neighbors were being targeted by the sheriff's office for traffic stops. At times, those stops ended in arrests for possessing false documents and eventually resulted in deportations.

Since 2003, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)—formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)—has been part of the Department of Homeland Security. The presence of federal employees at a county meeting was one indication of how our nation's immigration problems are affecting local communities.

Sioux County is one of 15 Iowa counties in which Hispanics make up more than 5 percent of the population, double the 2.5 percent residing in the area just eight years ago. With the influx of immigrants have come conflicts such as the one that occurred at the board of supervisors meeting.

In searching for solutions, local officials came to Northwestern College, where senior social work students played a role in providing answers. At the request of a

**Sioux County is one of 15 Iowa counties in which Hispanics make up more than 5 percent of the population, double the 2.5 percent residing in the area just eight years ago.**

focus group formed by the board to study the immigration issue, Professor Val Stokes enlisted students in her social work theory and practice course to research community attitudes and knowledge about Hispanic immigrants.

The students spent the entire fall semester working on their senior project. In addition to administering a telephone survey and then analyzing the data, they conducted a needs assessment for the county and met with key stakeholders in the community. They then shared their findings with the focus group and later with 70 people attending a public forum at City Hall in December.

Given the need for immigration reform, Stokes believes the work done by her social work majors was great preparation for their careers.

"Those who immigrate to the U.S. are a vulnerable population," she says. "Because social workers serve in agencies and organizations that meet the needs of vulnerable populations, it's likely our graduates will be working with immigrants."

Serving individual clients, however, is just one way these Northwestern alumni can

make a difference in the world. As Stokes explains, "We also train social workers to think systemically, and that means they will be prepared to be involved in policy-level matters."

### By the Numbers

Using a survey adapted from a study by National Public Radio, the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University, senior social work majors at Northwestern made more than 400 calls and talked with 200 residents of Sioux County. Among their findings:

**82%** of those surveyed said Sioux County is always, frequently or occasionally a welcoming community to Hispanics—but only 10% said they had a close friend or colleague with whom they socialize outside of work who is a recent Hispanic immigrant.

**52%** said there is the right number of Hispanic immigrants in Sioux County today, but 64% think that because of illegal immigration, too many people are coming to the U.S.

**69%** think immigrants strengthen Sioux County because of their hard work and talents.

**77%** think providing services like schools and health care to undocumented immigrants costs taxpayers too much.

**60%** don't think most recent Hispanic immigrants learn English within a reasonable amount of time.

**53%** think there are simple legal methods for undocumented immigrants to become legal immigrants while remaining in the U.S.



they couldn't release that information.

"There's got to be a common-sense approach for us as employers to find out if people are legal before we hire them," Dykstra says with frustration.

E-Verify is a voluntary government program intended to confirm if an employee is legally authorized to work in the U.S. But it isn't foolproof. Dykstra knows employers who have used E-Verify and still end up with illegal employees. That's because, McAllister says, E-Verify only indicates if the name and Social Security number match and if that person is authorized to work. It can't tell whether the person who presents the Social Security card is who he or she claims to be.

Ironically, E-Verify is probably increasing the demand for false documents based on a real person. Two decades ago, Clark says, there was less concern about proper paperwork—even among authorities. He knows of undocumented workers who, when filling out an application, were told to "just write something down" for their Social Security number.

In 1996, however, Iowa made it a felony to possess a forged document if it's used to obtain employment or to show an authorized stay in the United States.

## Searching for Answers

Vander Broek sees these changes in policies, laws and enforcement as part of a pattern. "Going back 100 years, it's astounding, the repetitive cycle of how we treat immigrants," she says. "When we need the manpower, we allow them to come in, but when we decide they're using too much of our resources, then we ship 'em out."

Clark agrees our society is culpable. "There have been times in which we've definitely said as a government, 'Officially, you may not come into our country, but because we need workers right now, we'll leave the backdoor open.' That's not the case in recent times, but those are the people who are here now and who are suddenly getting sent back."

Regardless of who is to blame, America's immigration crisis needs to be resolved on a national level.

King is a strong proponent of building a fence between the U.S. and Mexico border. "Like a trauma patient in the ER, we first have to stop the bleeding at the border," he says. "We need to complete the construction of the fences that are ordered by Congress in the Secure Fence Act and build the surveillance technology that will help our Border Patrol agents become 95 percent effective."

**Bob Mars '74 serves as principal of Kinsey Elementary School in Sioux Center, which has seen its demographics change dramatically in the past decade. Today 26 percent of its students are minorities—primarily Hispanic, but also Asian and Native American. While Kinsey does employ some bilingual teachers, Mars is a firm believer in integrating Spanish-speaking children in the regular classroom. "Immersion is very successful," he says. "Kids are like sponges. They learn English really, really fast." Northwestern sociology professor Dr. Mike Yoder agrees: "Public school has been and still is the great Americanizing machine. It takes the children of immigrants and turns them into Americans."**



Snieder is also in favor of a fence, saying it's the "simplest way" to curb illegal immigration and that its expense will be offset by savings from what illegal immigrants cost the country.

Koene believes immigration reform needs to start with the 12 million out-of-status immigrants already in the U.S.—but so far, that's been impossible. "If anybody now offers a solution for some method of legalizing the situation for the undocumented people who are here," he says, "their political opponents wreak havoc with their popularity."

For Dykstra, however, some form of amnesty only makes sense.

"You can't ship 12 million people out of the country without having a devastating effect on our economy—especially agriculture," he says. "I also think it's inhumane. Why not give these hard-working people who have been here a chance—the opportunity to stay, become legal over time, get driver's licenses, and let the government know they're here?"

King believes if the United States enforces immigration laws currently on the books and cracks down on employers hiring illegal aliens, "the aliens will voluntarily return home through attrition because they will no longer be able to find jobs."

Koene disagrees. "They've put down roots," he says. As for rounding up and deporting 12 million people, he maintains such a solution is both cost-prohibitive and logistically impossible.

"How do you determine who is legal and who is illegal?" he asks. "Who do you ask for their paperwork? There would be huge issues of discrimination."

Julie Mitchell '05 works for the Central American Resource Center in Los Angeles. Her experience helping immigrants navigate the immigration system has shown her how difficult such an approach could be. "It's a very confusing set of laws," she says. "Sometimes it takes me

months of work to figure out someone's immigration status."


Mitchell has also seen racial profiling in action. After visiting Iowa last fall, she was returning to California by Greyhound bus when immigration authorities showed up at a station as people were getting their bags. About 70 percent of the 50 passengers were Latino. "I noticed they were asking to see IDs, but they didn't ask me for mine. I probably wasn't checked because I'm white."

A second aspect of immigration reform must address America's need for workers. Under current law, a total of just 5,000 unskilled laborers—combined from all countries—are granted visas to the United States each year. Yet one dairy in Sioux County alone needs 30 such employees.

If our economy needs these workers, Koene says, we need to create a legal way of supplying them.

On this point, Snieder agrees with Koene. "I would be open to saying, 'Let's issue more visas,'" he says. "Let's allow more people to become citizens, increase the quotas, whatever might be healthy for our economy. But it has to be done legally."

Ultimately, however, there needs to be an international—not just a national—solution. Former President Ronald Reagan granted amnesty to nearly 3 million undocumented immigrants in 1986, and now, two decades later, America finds itself in an uncannily similar situation.

Long-term immigration reform, Koene says, must focus on strengthening the economies of Mexico and Central America. "Until the economic situations in those countries improve, there's going to be continued immigration pressures on the U.S., no matter what else the U.S. does." 



**A junior humanities major from Faribault, Minn., Karla Arevalo is one of 18 Hispanic students at Northwestern. She and her family immigrated to the United States from Guatemala in 1994 after being granted asylum from political persecution.**

JIM HEEMSTRA '72

### On the Web *exclusive*

Comment on this article at  
[classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)



# ROAD TRIP!

It doesn't take much to convince college students to pile in and head for the highway, leading to miles of memories. The *Classic* asked Northwestern alumni and students to share stories of their best road trips.

## Under Funded

The idea for our junior-year trip to Glacier National Park started with a conversation at the caf' and nearly ended when we emptied our pockets for a total of 12 bucks.

Undeterred, we came up with the idea to raise funds

by selling NWC-themed undies. Christine Geertsema '07 designed panties imprinted with "Uniting Ladies Across Campus," and the four of us sold around 250, earning enough for a week of camping in the Montana mountains. We saw bears and elk and went whitewater rafting. The thing we still talk about, though, is all the bottoms that supported us!

**Kelsey (Carroll '08) Irwin**

LOUISVILLE, KY.

## Wild West

With a CD of more than a dozen songs about Santa Fe, I headed for New Mexico with a friend who also loves cowboys to explore the trail of Billy the Kid. (I'd written a research paper about him for Dr. Anderson's American West class.) We toured the Lincoln County Courthouse—from which Billy the Kid made his famous escape—and Fort Sumner, where he was shot and killed. The trip was history major heaven!

**Brittany Lassen '09**

REMSEN, IOWA

## On a Mission

Five West Hall guys made our own spring service trip sophomore year, traveling 4,000 miles to serve with ministries in four cities. We wanted to think about mission and our call to care for the poor. Our life-changing journey took us to a shelter in St. Louis; an athletic ministry in Memphis; a church in New Jersey; and a Christian commune in Chicago.

**Jason Blaha '09**

SWISHER, IOWA





Close friends Craig Dalen, Scott Schnyders and Andrew Bensen (from left) remember the best of what they learned at Northwestern during a summer journey through six countries.

## Back Track

Our spring break 2007 trip to the Grand Canyon started with the winter's worst blizzard. Driving south, we passed more than 70 stranded vehicles. We survived the ice and were near our destination when we stopped for snacks and a paper near the New Mexico-Arizona border. We agreed to take a mountain pass shortcut—a road that eventually became gravel, then dirt. The needle on our gas gauge was dropping almost as fast as the sun behind the mountains, and no lines on our map looked similar to the path we were on. The five of us were getting scared and cranky when one, who'd been reading the local news, turned the page to a detailed map of the Gila National Forest. So *that's* where we were! We coasted back on fumes, arriving at a closed gas station whose employees had stayed late to retiler the store floor. We got gas and directions and were back on track, better friends than before and in awe of God's protection.

**Katie Gard '08**

FERGUS FALLS, MINN.

## Rained Out

Junior year a bunch of us decided to drive to a doubleheader: the Chicago Cubs in the afternoon and Milwaukee Brewers at night. We drove through a stormy night and got to our seats in Wrigley Field just in time for the game to be called for rain! The guys were devastated; the girls were soaked and secretly relieved. On to Milwaukee, where we caught nine innings, then drove all night again to get home.

**Ashley (Adams '06) Stanislav**

ORANGE CITY, IOWA

## Slick Trip

Our sophomore year, Dawn (Van Berkum '90) Crane's dad paid hotel expenses for four of us to spend the weekend in Minneapolis shopping and acting like grownups. As "responsible adults," none of us thought to check the forecast, and we drove into snow on the way back to Orange City. I was taking a turn driving when I hit a patch of ice. I overcompensated and sent us spinning across both lanes of the interstate, waking up my passengers and landing us in the ditch. With no cell phones or automotive know-how, we relied on some Good Samaritans who drove us to a nearby truck stop. A trucker helped us recover our car and locate a motel where we could weather the storm. That memorable trip was our first girls' weekend—and they continue to this day!

**Laura (Ver Mulm '90) De Boer**

AMES, IOWA

## Towed Off

Seven seniors realized we'd be graduating soon and decided to road trip west. No one had a car big enough, so we wrote a persuasive letter to Prof. Carl Vandermeulen, convincing him to loan us his van. Rather than pay Seattle parking rates, I left the van at Tower Records, and we returned after visiting the Space Needle and Pike Place Market to find the van had vanished—towed, not stolen. We tracked it down only to be told vehicles must be retrieved by their owners—even if they are in Iowa, asleep in bed. We woke Carl, and he faxed his vehicle registration to the tow owner, who finally let us leave. We drove straight back to campus.

**Trygve Johnson '96**

HOLLAND, MICH.

## Civic Lessons

Although I took several memorable road trips while at Northwestern, the most significant one happened a few years after graduation. Craig Dalen '03, Scott Schnyders '04 and I resurrected my '89 Honda Civic and spent a summer driving through six countries, from Orange City to San Jose, Costa Rica. We had no plan—just a map and one backpack each. We simply improvised along the way and eventually abandoned the car with a Costa Rican dentist before flying home. The trip reminded us of the ways our years at Northwestern had united us as friends and given us the desire to see, understand and love more of the world.

**Andrew Bensen '03**

MASKELL, NEB. 

## On the Web *exclusive*

Read more road trip stories and share your own through the comments section at [classic.nwciowa.edu](http://classic.nwciowa.edu)



# class Notes

**'65 The Rev. Duane Moret**, Long Beach, Calif., is dean of the Ministry Training Center, an interfaith institution of pastoral education. He also serves as pastor of Holy Spirit Fellowship.

**'72 The Rev. Dr. Murray Moerman** is Europe area director for OC International. He and his family live in Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada.

**'81 Bill Bleil** was hired in December as the assistant head football coach at Iowa State University. He served the last four years as an assistant coach at the University of Akron.

**'82 Michael Swanson** earned a master's degree in information, with a specialization in archives and records management, from the University of Michigan. He is an assistant archivist at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

**'85** In December **Annette (Long) Harrison** completed a Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with an emphasis in language, interaction and social organization. She and her husband, Byron, coordinate sociolinguistic and missiological research for Wycliffe Bible Translators in the Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and the western half of the Democratic Republic of Congo. They also serve as instructors at the Bangui Evangelical School of Theology.

**'88 Holly Donaghy**, Vernon Hills, Ill., is a site acquisition paralegal for Goodman Networks in Schaumburg.

**Bill Francis** was inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Basketball Hall of Fame in March in recognition of his achievements on the 1983 state championship team at Palmer High School. He is now the head coach at Boyden-Hull (Iowa) High School.

**David UitdeFlesch**, Kentwood, Mich., serves as an outpatient therapist at Pine

Rest Christian Mental Health Services NE Clinic in Grand Rapids. He recently earned the Certified Advanced Addictions Counselor credential. He previously worked for Wedgwood Christian Services for 20 years.

**'89 Peggy Krambeck Eblen** is a middle school language arts teacher at St. Malachy School in Creston, Iowa.

**'91 Amy (Bonnema) Mullenberg** is a guidance counselor at Palisades Elementary School in Gretna, Neb. Her husband, **Pete**, is a national accounts manager at Werner Enterprises in Omaha.

**'92 Keith Nibbelink** teaches history and physical education in the Allegan (Mich.) Public Schools.

**'93 Gina (Krager) Paulsen**, Paullina, Iowa, is a special education teacher for students with moderate disabilities at MOC-Floyd Valley High School in Orange City. She is also a national trainer for Language! literacy curriculum. She and her husband, Patrick, have three children: Taylor (13), Kyle (11) and Derek (2).

**'94 Craig Douma** was inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Basketball Hall of Fame in March in recognition of his achievements on three state tournament teams at Maurice-Orange City High School. He still holds state tournament records for three-point field goals in a game (11) and in a single tournament (20). He is now the head coach at Carroll (Iowa) High School.

**Tamara Johnson** earned a master's degree in education in 2005. She has been working at Mason City (Iowa) High School for seven years. She teaches business education and is the department head for careers.

**'95 Ross Douma** has been named head men's basketball

## Red Ties

**Jennifer Neuhauser '00**

Director of Alumni Relations

Shortly after starting my position as Northwestern's alumni director, I was sitting at a Raider basketball game when I got a text message from an unknown number: "The Dahlquists can see you." I scanned the bleachers looking for someone familiar and soon spotted Adam ('00) and Laurie (Smith '00) Dahlquist, great college friends I hadn't seen in years.

During a break in the action, I went over to sit with them and asked, "How did you get my cell number?" Laurie explained they'd seen my photo in the *Classic* and knew I was back on campus. So when they saw me, Adam used his Blackberry to access my Facebook page, where they found my number. That's cool!—and it's evidence the ways we connect with one another are evolving.

I especially notice this now that I am in a job focused on fostering connections. I'm managing Northwestern's alumni Facebook page, and already I've Skyped with alumni in Indonesia. Increasingly alums use text and instant messaging to communicate news for the *Classic*. While I welcome these and other forms of digital communication, I also realize for many there still is no substitute for a handshake or a hug, followed by face-to-face conversation over a cup of coffee.

As the new director of alumni relations, I am excited to communicate with you in all kinds of ways. I want to tell you about the Northwestern College I'm rediscovering, and I want to hear your stories, whether you share them while munching a hotdog at a picnic or send me the link to your blog. Whether I find you or you find me first—like the Dahlquists—I hope we connect.



coach at Dordt College. Currently the head boys' basketball coach at Waukee (Iowa) High School, he previously coached at Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn (Iowa) and Chicago Christian. In his 10 seasons of coaching, he has earned district coach of the year honors three times.

**'96 Midori (Okawa) Ataka**, Torrance, Calif., is a full-time translator in the motorcycle division at Honda R&D Americas. Her husband, Jay, stays home with their two sons: Makoto (10) and Tsutomu (8).

**'97 Tamara Yoder** is a firefighter and paramedic for Horry County Fire Rescue in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**'98 Tonia (Wiese) Sheesley** is a reading recovery teacher in Oak Grove, Mo.

**'99 Rachel Bonnema**, Omaha, is an assistant professor of general internal medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

**Shelly (King) Johnson's** family moved from Huntsville, Texas, to Jacksonville, N.C., in August. She home schools their children. Her husband, Donald, is deploying this spring with the Marines.

**Jill (Kuiper) Langlois**, Lake Saint Louis, Mo., stays home with daughter Amelia (2).

**'01 Shane Dees** is district sales manager for the Republic National Distribution Company in Grand Prairie, Texas.

**Gina (Wenzel) Greene** is a part-time athletic trainer for Iroquois Memorial Hospital in Watseka, Ill. Her husband, **Andrew '06**, is the information technology manager at Greene Welding and Hardware, a family business that makes safety systems for grain bins.

**'02 Andrea Brouwer** teaches fifth grade in the Dallas Center-Grimes (Iowa) School District. She graduated

from the nursing program at Mercy College of Health Sciences last May.

**'03 Paula (Ewoldt) Hodgson** teaches special education at the Akron-Westfield (Iowa) Middle School.

**Stephanie (Ells) Huisman**, Lincoln, Neb., is the minister of children and families at Dundee Presbyterian Church in Omaha.

**'04 Brent Arnold**, Omaha, is a trade inquiry analyst at TD Ameritrade in Bellevue.

**Nichole (Blaede '04) Cline**, Ankeny, Iowa, recently resigned from her teaching position for Des Moines Public Schools and her cheerleading coach position at Drake University to stay home with her daughter.

**Amy (Bouwman) Hildring** earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Southwest Minnesota State University. She teaches kindergarten in Sioux Falls and has a son, Evan (2).

**Ryan Kronberg**, Charles City, Iowa, was mentioned in a Jan. 29 *New York Times* article about long-suffering Arizona Cardinals fans. He is the sports editor of the *Charles City Press*. "I could never find good enough reasons to give them up," he was quoted as saying—even after watching them lose 49-0 to Kansas City in 2002 in the only Cardinals game he has seen in person.

**Ethan (Wallinga) Pulscher**, Harrisburg, S.D., is director of health information management at the Canton Good Samaritan Center. Her husband, **Michael '03**, is a senior credit review officer with First Bank and Trust in Sioux Falls.

**BJ Rounds**, Millersville, Md., serves in the Navy with the National Security Group Activity stationed at Ft. Meade.

**'05 Maggie Keelan** serves as development officer for the Boston University School of Theology. She oversees all fundraising and alumni relations activities.



As executive director of Serve Our Youth, Bernie Van Roekel leads a central-Iowa agency that provides mentors for high-risk youth.

## Teen Mentor

Over a game of cards, Bernie Van Roekel '70 glances at the student across from him and lightly steers the conversation to topics of school and life. The activity varies—from shooting pool to cooking dinner—but each Wednesday evening finds Van Roekel building relationships at a Des Moines-area youth services center.

"These are good kids who just haven't had anyone who has tried to impact them positively," he says.

As executive director of Serve Our Youth (SOY), Van Roekel works to change that by matching adults from area churches with high-risk youth.

Mentors go through training and commit to one year with their student. "Often kids are hesitant because they've been let down by adults frequently," he says. "But when the mentor is consistent, barriers start to break down."

In 2005 Van Roekel retired after 20 years as the high school principal in Waukee. He was looking for a new way to help kids when he heard about SOY. "I was just pulled in," says Van Roekel, whose wife, Marcia (Arentson '71), is also a mentor.

While the program currently has 60 mentor pairs, additional volunteers—representing 75 churches—also facilitate programs at youth homes and lead weekly Bible studies.

"Even though some of these facilities are government-run, they realize it takes more than rules and adjudication to change a child's life," he says.

by Emily Hennager '06



**Kelly Kleinhesselink**, a deputy sheriff in San Diego, recently received the Medal of Valor for his service during the 2007 California wildfires.

**Shanna (Vetter) Tadic**, Eagle River, Alaska, teaches physical education at Eagle Academy Charter School. She is pursuing a master's degree in special education from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

**'06 Jeffrey DeVore** is a producer for Independent News Network in Davenport, Iowa.

**Missy McLeish**, Bellflower, Calif., is a speech therapist for the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

**'07 Peter Eko-Acquah**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a graphic artist for New Pioneer Food Co-op in Iowa City.

**Kent Wallinga**, South Sioux City, Neb., is pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy at the University of South Dakota.

**'08 Kelsey Arvidson**, North Oaks, Minn., is a residential counselor at Bush Memorial Children's Center in St. Paul.

**Kadie Becker** is a teacher's assistant at the Sioux Falls Children's Home.

**Miranda Boekhout** is an elementary special education teacher and assistant varsity girls' basketball coach at Sergeant Bluff-Luton (Iowa) Schools.

**Kari Broadway** is an ER/clinic receptionist for the Orange City Area Health System.

**Brianne Caldwell** teaches elementary visual art for Omaha Public Schools.

**Chris Cobble**, Lakewood, Colo., is the youth pastor at Larkridge Church.

**Kristin Conner**, Elk Grove, Calif., is working in the preschool and library at St. Peter's Lutheran School.



SUSAN MCCLELLAN

Thanks to Ed Grattan's kidney donation, one fewer person needs dialysis.

## A Generous Life

The way Ed Grattan '83 sees it, if you have two dollars, you have one to give away. An hour of time—that's a half hour to share.

And two kidneys?

"If you've got something, you've got something to share," says Grattan, who on Nov. 13 became the first person in the history of University of Iowa Hospitals to donate a kidney without designating a recipient.

Grattan tends to downplay his generous act. But then, this is a guy who downplays competing in three triathlons ("just small ones") in the summer months before the transplant.

In fact, the resident of North Liberty, Iowa, is currently training to run, bike and swim in three more races this year to prove that donors can maintain competitive lifestyles. Grattan was up and walking the day of the surgery, praying for a man he doesn't know (and won't, unless the recipient chooses to find him).

"I wondered how he was doing with my kidney," he says. "How's *my* kidney working out?" Then it hit him. "It's not *my* kidney anymore, it's *his* now. It's not about me. God, this is in your hands."

by Amy Scheer

**Meggan De Jong** is Operation Joshua coordinator for Hellenic Ministries in Athens, Greece, arranging special events and assisting with communications.

**Lindsey De Kruif** is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich.

**Delayne Delbridge** is an accountant for CalEnergy in Omaha.

**Amanda Dengler**, Luverne, Minn., is a child protection social worker for Rock County Family Service Agency.

**Michael Dykstra** serves as computer support specialist at NWC.

**Josh Earleywine** is pursuing a master's degree in exercise physiology at Illinois State University in Normal.

**Daniel Eshcol** is pursuing a master's degree in higher education and student affairs at Iowa State University in Ames.

**Carissa Fields**, Lone Tree, Colo., is studying in the Master of Divinity program at Iliff School of Theology in Denver.

**Katie Gard** is an AmeriCorps tutor for sixth grade students in Fergus Falls, Minn.

**Michael Goll** is a designer for Staples Promotional Products in Orange City.

**Brian Goodrich**, Orange City, is a quality control lab tech for Diamond Vogel Paints.

**Johanna Grieme** teaches kindergarten for Perry (Iowa) Community Schools.

**Emily (Meyerink) Griese** is pursuing a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Jillian Groeneveld** works as a recruitment coordinator for PIONEERS, a mission organization in Orlando, Fla.

**Julie Hagmeier** is pursuing a master's degree in outdoor recreation at Indiana University in Bloomington.

**Elizabeth Heiberger** is an editor for VistaComm, a marketing company in Sioux Falls.

**Kendra (Van't Hof) and Joe Heitritter** recently departed on a 27-month Peace Corps assignment to Paraguay. Kendra serves in local schools as an early elementary education adviser, and Joe is a rural health and sanitation extensionist.

**Sarah Hilkemann**, Plano, Texas, is a Luke 10 missionary intern at the Mission to Unreached Peoples global office.

**Mikkala Hup** teaches third grade in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**Kelsey (Carroll) Irwin**, Louisville, Ky., teaches eighth grade language arts and journalism at South Oldham Middle School.

**Ryan Jacobson** is records clerk for the city of Ankeny, Iowa. He is pursuing a master's degree in public administration from Iowa State University.

**Brock Jensen**, Cheong-ju City, South Korea, teaches English at Oh Sung Sik English Academy.

**Katie (Cook) Keizer**, Doon, Iowa, is a special needs aide at Rock Valley Elementary.

**Ryan Kiel**, Orange City, is a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service.

**Chad Klyn** is a staff accountant for Schuring and Uitermarkt in Pella, Iowa.

**Titus Landegent**, Le Mars, Iowa, teaches fifth grade at Hinton Community School.

**Shateen (Gens) Lichter**, Adrian, Minn., is a social services activities assistant at Southridge HealthCare Center in Sioux Falls.

**Grace Liu** is an accountant for Demco Manufacturing in Boyden, Iowa.

**Andrew Lundgren** teaches special education at Sheldon (Iowa) High School.



MIKE RATHJEN

After three years as an RCA missionary in Mexico, Janelle Lopez Koolhaas now pastors the church in which she grew up in the Vancouver, Canada, area.

## Preaching Peace

Janelle Lopez Koolhaas '98 remembers being sick. Really sick. She also remembers the one feeling that overrode her intestinal trouble: a sense of calling.

A Northwestern Summer of Service in Kyrgyzstan gave Koolhaas the desire to share the gospel wherever God needed her, near or far.

"We as Christians have something to offer that the world is desperate for," she says.

In 2001, after becoming the first woman ordained by the RCA in Canada, Koolhaas lived as an RCA missionary in Chiapas, Mexico, where she taught members of the highland Tzeltal tribe at indigenous Bible colleges for three years.

Then Koolhaas came home—to Langley, British Columbia, where she became pastor of Emmaus Christian Fellowship, the church her father led for 15 years. Emmaus is where Koolhaas grew up, married and became ordained; it's the church that supported her as a missionary. The congregation was like family.

"I knew where their hearts were; that was important to me," she says.

This June, Koolhaas and another Northwestern alum, Marlin Vis '70, will share preaching duties during the RCA General Synod meeting in Holland, Mich. This year's theme, "My peace be with you," is one Koolhaas is happy to share—whether on territory foreign or familiar.

by Amy Scheer

**Andrew Mahoney**, Worthington, Minn., is an AmeriCorps promise fellow for the Nobles County Integration Collaborative, which provides multicultural activities in six local school districts.

**Nicole McDermott** is a youth treatment counselor for the Tennyson Center for Children in Denver.

**Jenny McKenny** teaches first grade at Holyoke (Colo.) Elementary School.

**Richard Meekhof** is a foreman for Lipetzky's Irrigation and Landscape in Sioux Falls.

**Megan Meyer** is an auditor for MidAmerican Energy in Des Moines.

**Alla Miroshnychenko** works for Pacwest Security Services in Los Angeles as an administrative assistant.

**Justin Mohning** is pursuing a master's degree in sports management from Wayne State College in Nebraska.

**Kristen Moss** is a teacher and tutor in Kosice, Slovakia.

**Ellen (Schroeder) Nelson** is a kinship care social worker for Bethanna in Philadelphia.

**Kayla (Peterson) Newton**, Humboldt, Iowa, is a quality scientist for Fort Dodge Animal Health.

**Luke Perry** is an admissions counselor at Northwestern.

**Nathan Peters**, Orange City, is an AmeriCorps volunteer serving with Iowa Legal Aid in Sioux City.

**Jessica Peterson** serves with the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, based out of Sacramento, Calif. She is on a traveling team that works with Habitat for Humanity in Lake Charles, La., and with schools in Lacombe, La.



**Bethany Popkes** is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich.

**Larissa (Harwood) Poppen** teaches music at Sheldon (Iowa) Christian School.

**Tim Ranney** is pursuing a master's degree in counseling psychology at the University of Denver.

**Jordan Reed** is pursuing a master's degree in physical therapy from Des Moines University.

**Jessica Regan** is a membership counselor for Urban Active in Omaha.

**Kimberly Robison** teaches math at Glens Ferry (Idaho) High School.

**Elizabeth Rogers** teaches Spanish at Gehlen Catholic High School in Le Mars, Iowa.

**Samantha Schneider**, Catlett, Va., teaches early childhood special education for Loudoun County Public School.

**Jennifer Shafer** attends Ben-Gurion University Medical School for International Health in Be'er Sheva, Israel.

**Brian Springer**, Waukee, Iowa, is a vending specialist and new business developer with All Brands Vending.

**Amanda (Van Kekerix) Stahl**, Sioux Falls, teaches third grade at Tea Area Elementary School. She also serves as junior high girls' basketball coach. Her husband, **Scott**, is an ag banker at First National Bank.

**Nate Summers** is an individual investor specialist with Principal Financial Group in Des Moines.

**Cindy Sybesma** teaches English and history at Mitchell (S.D.) Christian School.

**Raeann Taylor** is pursuing a master's degree in health and kinesiology from the University of Texas at Tyler. She is a graduate assistant for Trinity Mother Frances Health System, serving as an athletic trainer at Van High School.

**Jenna Teerink** is a band director for the Pocahontas (Iowa) Area Community School District.

**Amy Thvedt**, Beresford, S.D., is pursuing a master's degree in secondary education from the University of South Dakota.

**Emily Todd** is pursuing a master's degree in public history from the University of Northern Iowa.

**Tim Ulibarri**, Centennial, Colo., is an accounting associate for Epic Advisors in Denver.

**Carrie Vander Horst** is a vocalist for CTI Music Ministries, based in Willmar, Minn. She is on a team that travels around the U.S. and abroad performing in churches, schools and prisons.

**Jamise (Retzlaff) Van Otterloo**, Omaha, teaches second grade in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**Matt Van Schepen**, Willowbrook, Ill., teaches eighth grade science at Timothy Christian School in Elmhurst.

**Kiera (Fredericksen) Voelker**, Yorba Linda, Calif., is the assistant marketing and sales director at Get Flipped!, an event photography company in Orange. Her husband, **Josh '06**, is the technical supervisor at Alexandra Nechita Center for the Arts at Orange County Lutheran High School. They also started JAKfoto Still and Moving Pictures, a photography/videography partnership.

**Ben Vos** is the youth minister at Shannon Oaks Church in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree through the Western Theological Seminary distance learning program.

**Wes Wagner**, Sioux Falls, is a software developer for Martin Group in Mitchell.

**Taylor Warntjes**, Maurice, Iowa, teaches history and government at Heelan Catholic High School in Sioux City.

**Alisha Weller** is a residential leader for Opportunities Unlimited in Sioux City.

**Melissa (Scheuring) Wenthe**, Sheldon, Iowa, is an ELL instructor for the MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District.

**Kari (Tjeerdsma) Wieking** teaches fourth grade at Kinsey Elementary School in Sioux Center.

**Rachael Wittern**, Adel, Iowa, is an early childhood caseworker for Lutheran Services of Iowa in Boone.

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

Northwestern is seeking an individual to lead a comprehensive advancement program overseeing the areas of fundraising, alumni relations, church relations and grants. This person will report to the president and serve as a member of the Administrative Council.

FIND OUT MORE AT  
[WWW.NWCIOWA.EDU/EMPLOYMENT](http://WWW.NWCIOWA.EDU/EMPLOYMENT)

# SPEAK UP

Tell your NWC friends and classmates about the latest news in your life.

Submit by April 27 to:

Office of Public Relations • Northwestern College  
101 7th Street SW • Orange City, IA 51041  
[classic@nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic@nwciowa.edu) • [classic.nwciowa.edu](mailto:classic.nwciowa.edu)  
712-707-7370 (fax)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Class year \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Current employer(s) \_\_\_\_\_

My news \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# Classic Thoughts

## New Home

by Grete Carlson



Grete Carlson, left, and her brother, Harry, journeyed with their parents from Norway to the United States on the S. S. Stavangerfjord.

There was a time when I wished I was born in America instead of Norway, a time when I wished I was *not* a first-generation, came-over-on-the-boat, started-out-with-nothing immigrant.

In fact, when I reached that unnerving first year of junior high and didn't like much of anything about myself, I decided to change my name to "Marie"—a name no one mispronounced or misspelled, a name teenage boys couldn't turn into teasing about *lefse* and *lutefisk*.

But I got over it.

So my name is still Grete—spelled with an "e" but pronounced here in the U.S. with "a" at the end. Only people born speaking a language other than English can manage the leaps of the larynx needed to pronounce it correctly.

By the time I was six and my brother three, my parents had been saving every *krone* for years to either build a gas station in Norway or buy four tickets for the Great American Dream. When both a business permit and U.S. visas arrived, they decided an American education and opportunity for their children trumped everything comfortable and known. So they sold what they couldn't pack into three wooden trunks, nestling my grandmother's fine china in down comforters.

Our tiny cabin on the S. S. Stavangerfjord vibrated from proximity to giant propellers, and luggage ricocheted under our beds in high rolling seas for much of the nine-day crossing. Mom, who'd fished in seagoing boats since girlhood, did fine. Dad, who grew up in the mountains, was seasick. For Harry and me, it was a great adventure, sleeping in beds mounted over our heads and running down corridors peopled by storybook characters.

As we entered New York Harbor on Oct. 11, 1954—Columbus Day—we rushed to the top deck, and my father lifted me to see the Statue of Liberty. We watched the ship's cranes unload. One bundle broke loose and crashed, and my mother wept over the loss of grandmother's china. Coming ashore, she shushed me as I pointed at longshoremen: "Svarte manfolk!" I'd never seen people of color—only heard about them in missionary stories.

My parents reeled at U.S. prices, so we ate only one daily meal during our cross-country train trip,

making do with shipboard leftovers and homemade sausage dad carved with his pocketknife. Our tender-eyed train porter dropped sandwiches in my lap and nodded toward my brother. I was to share. Oranges, tropical miracles, were delivered by gentle black hands. When I babbled that his kindness made me forget his dirty skin, my parents were grateful I couldn't speak English.

My father found work as a carpenter in Seattle, a three-bus transfer from where we lived in a relative's attic. He left in the early morning darkness, hefting his bulky tool chest, gesturing to the bus driver to verify transfer numbers written on a scrap of paper he kept in his pocket.

I had talked of nothing but starting school in America for months and couldn't wait to have my own desk and books and new friends. The first day I excitedly dressed in a knee-length wool coat, matching tights and lambskin-lined boots. My mom held my hand, nudging me into the classroom.

The American girls wore short parkas, ruffled anklets, and brown and white saddle shoes. They snickered, and one girl pulled curiously at my cabled leggings. The next day I stayed home with a stomachache. The day after, I decided to quit school. But my mother chattered and encouraged and dragged me eight blocks to my classroom, day after rainy day. I cried. My bare legs froze. Recently, my mother admitted that after cheerfully pushing me into my classroom, she wept the whole way home.

My beautiful Swedish-born teacher adapted lesson plans, and we made crayon drawings of an ocean liner carrying a yellow-haired girl over a blue sea, captioned: "Grete came on a big boat. Grete came from Norway." By December, I was teaching classmates a Norwegian Christmas carol, and as they stammered and mispronounced words, they learned more than a new song.

Grete Helstad Carlson is a freelance writer who lives in Orange City. Her husband, Doug, is professor of history and associate dean of global education at Northwestern. They have two daughters: Katie attended NWC and now lives in Seattle; Jennifer is a Northwestern freshman.

1989

1990

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

# Be Counted

**F**rank Vogel ('47) encouraged us to start giving to Northwestern years ago, and we've never stopped. We continue to be impressed with the college's dedicated staff and try to share in their commitment to young people to the extent that we can. What's in it for us? It's the satisfaction of seeing the college grow and prosper. In these economic times, it's more important than ever that those with a heart for Northwestern keep doing what we can.

*Norm Bastemeyer '51 practiced law in Orange City for 24 years before serving as administrator for the Iowa Supreme Court Board of Professional Ethics and Conduct from 1986 to 2004. Mostly retired in West Des Moines, he still works several hours each week for Iowa's Attorney Disciplinary Board. A founding member of Northwestern's N-Club—now the Red Raider Club—Norm and his wife, Carol (Veencamp '56), still follow Raider sports and have given to the Northwestern Fund annually for over 20 years.*



## It all adds up.

Norm and Carol have made the Northwestern Fund a priority year after year, loyally investing in their alma mater. Consistently donate—no matter what the amount—and make your giving count more.



[give.nwciowa.edu](http://give.nwciowa.edu) • [giving@nwciowa.edu](mailto:giving@nwciowa.edu)





101 7th Street SW  
Orange City, IA 51041  
Ph. 712-707-7000  
[www.nwciowa.edu](http://www.nwciowa.edu)

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
ABPC

# Spring Service



For college students all over the country, spring break means road trips to big cities and sandy beaches. Northwestern students travel too; some of them pack a hammer.

For almost three decades, Spring

Service Project (SSP) teams of students, staff and faculty—around 250 people each year—have spent spring break serving. They travel to Nicaragua and the Netherlands, to California, New York, Oklahoma and Florida. They

repair homes, tutor youth, preach in prisons and aid neighborhoods recovering from hurricanes.

Through SSP, the needs of numerous ministries are met, and students—like Greg White, who

traveled to Nicaragua last spring—learn more about redeeming God's world.

*the* Classic